



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics Service

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Much needed rain temporarily halted field activities during the week in some areas of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. The precipitation helped relieve dry soil conditions, especially in the southern regions. Corn and soybean harvest continued to make good progress in early maturing fields. Corn harvest is 4 days behind average. Soybean harvest is 7 days behind average. Lodging of corn plants is becoming a major concern for many farmers. Chopping corn for silage and harvest of seed corn continued. Tillage of soils and seeding of winter wheat continued in some fields.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.2 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Corn **condition** is rated 27 percent good to excellent compared with 28 percent last week and 76 percent last year at this time. Virtually all of the corn acreage has reached the **dent** stage. Seventy-four percent of the corn crop is **mature** compared with 89 percent last year and 84 percent for the 5-year average. By region, 70 percent of the corn acreage is mature (safe from frost) in the north, 73 percent in the central regions and 83 percent in the south. Fourteen percent of the corn acreage is **harvested** compared with 20 percent last year and 18 percent for the 5-year average. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging 22 percent.

Soybean **condition** is rated 31 percent good to excellent compared with 31 percent last week and 72 percent a year earlier. Eighty-two percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 89 percent last year and 92 percent for the average. By area, 82 percent of the soybean acreage is shedding leaves in the north, 81 percent in the central regions and 85 percent in the south. Fifty-two percent of the soybean acreage is **mature** compared with 66 percent last year and 71 percent for the average. Ten percent of the soybean acreage is **harvested** compared with 16 percent last year and 22 percent for the average. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging about 13 percent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 8 percent good, 25 percent fair, 29 percent poor and 38 percent very poor. Eight percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is seeded compared with 9 percent last year and 10 percent for the average. **Tobacco** harvest is 88 percent complete compared with 95 percent last year and 86 percent for the average. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Mature	74	53	89	84
Corn Harvested	14	8	20	18
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	82	63	89	92
Soybeans Mature	52	26	66	71
Soybeans Harvested	10	3	16	22
Winter Wheat Planted	8	3	9	10
Winter Wheat Emerged	1	0	1	1
Tobacco Harvested	88	77	95	86

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	19	23	31	24	3
Soybean	14	20	35	28	3
Pasture	38	29	25	8	0

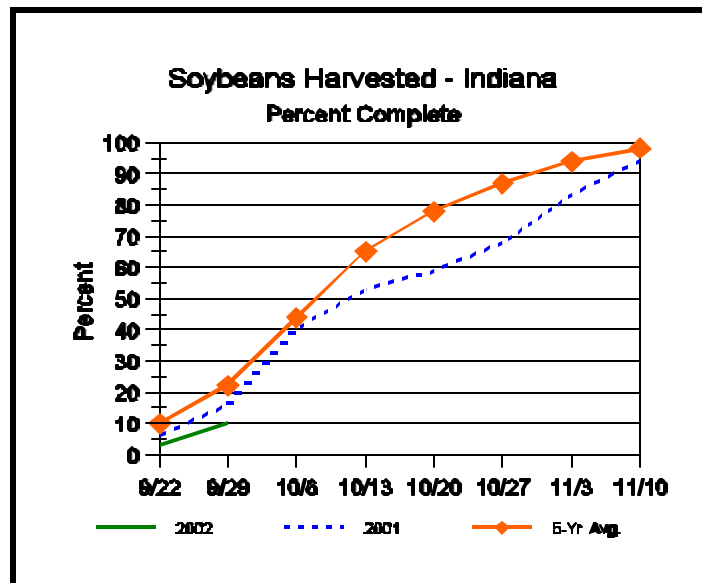
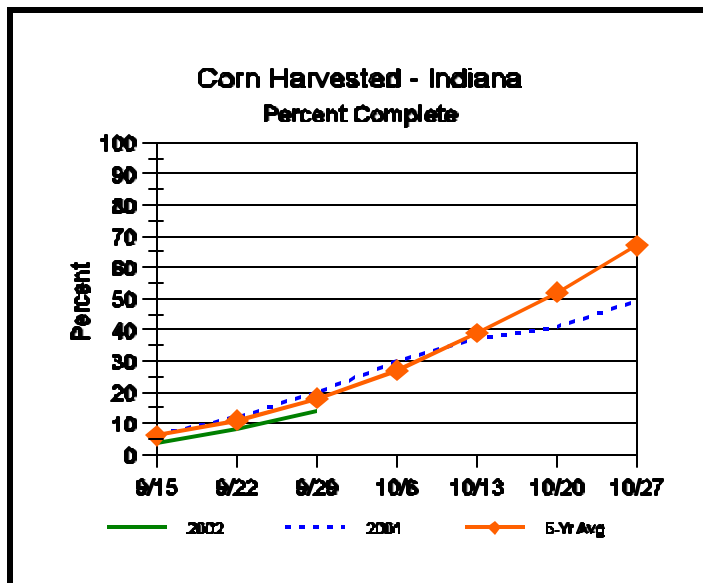
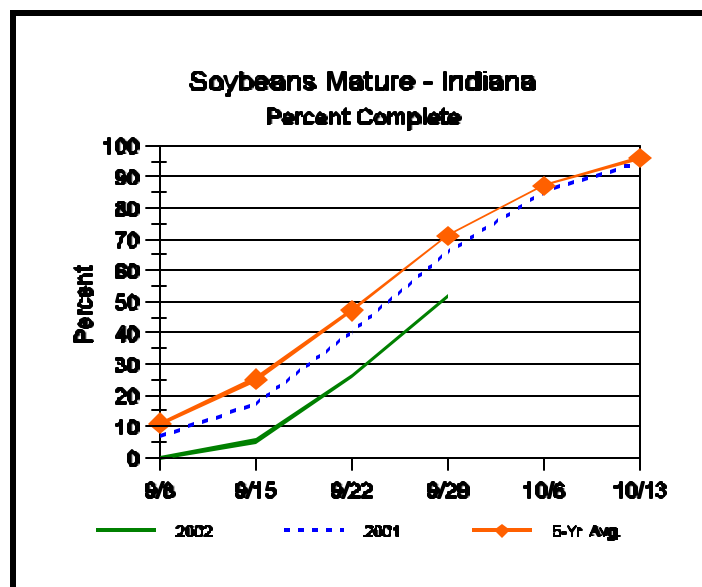
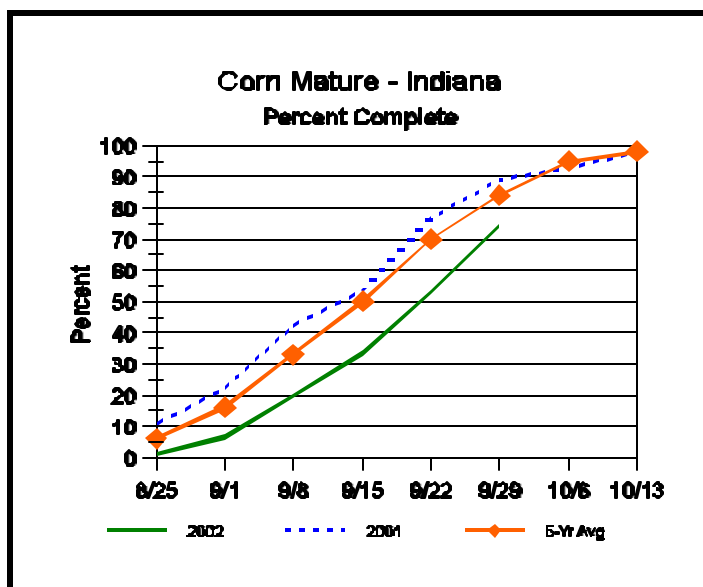
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	14	27	2
Short	29	37	12
Adequate	50	35	81
Surplus	7	1	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	27	38	6
Short	43	42	24
Adequate	29	20	65
Surplus	1	0	5
Days Suitable	5.2	5.2	5.8

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Preharvest Assessment of Indiana Corn Crop

- There is concern about ear rot and mycotoxins

There is great concern about this year's corn crop. We have experienced delayed planting and endured many days with temperatures above 90 degrees and rainfall below normal. I am starting to hear reports of aflatoxin contamination occurring in some areas of Illinois. So what is the situation in Indiana?

Every year I assess the corn crop in two ways, road trips and a statewide survey. Looking at the corn near West Lafayette, I have found no need for

concern about mycotoxins. Last week, I made road trips to as far south as Posey County and to as far east as Adams County. On my trip south, I stopped at a number of fields between Terre Haute and just south of Sullivan. I found no more than normal amounts, which is very little, of ear/kernel rots that are frequently associated with mycotoxins. In the area around Vincennes, I found fields with severe drought stress that had ears infected with the aflatoxin-producing fungus, *Aspergillus flavus*. The affected corn crop appeared scorched and the ears

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday September 29, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2002 thru				
	Temperature				Total		4 in	September 29, 2002				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
							Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	79	39	59	-4	0.18	2		18.53	-3.50	69	3172	+153
Valparaiso_AP_I	78	42	60	-2	0.09	1		18.03	-5.90	66	3180	+423
Wanatah	78	37	58	-3	0.07	1	68	18.54	-4.58	71	2999	+367
Wheatfield	77	39	58	-3	0.00	0		21.92	-0.50	55	3050	+360
Winamac	76	41	60	-2	0.28	1	63	20.79	-1.51	64	3104	+334
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	76	40	59	-3	0.03	1		19.27	-3.53	69	2974	+60
South_Bend	76	42	61	+0	0.03	1		16.09	-6.06	64	3155	+423
Young_America	79	40	61	-2	0.65	2		22.47	+0.88	59	3208	+342
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	75	38	58	-3	0.82	1	59	19.81	-1.86	64	2934	+327
Fort_Wayne	76	40	60	-3	0.74	3		20.91	+1.09	59	3189	+325
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	78	39	59	-6	0.96	4		30.37	+5.34	63	3120	-112
Perrysville	78	39	60	-3	0.06	2	68	28.26	+4.78	62	3276	+270
Spencer_Ag	77	42	61	-2	1.05	2		32.02	+6.88	64	3357	+325
Terre_Haute_AFB	79	39	62	-2	0.73	2		33.83	+10.17	63	3573	+366
W_Lafayette_6NW	79	38	59	-3	0.15	2	65	26.05	+4.03	72	3229	+378
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	77	48	63	-1	0.86	3		24.37	+2.29	67	3579	+400
Greenfield	77	42	61	-3	1.21	1		32.19	+8.05	67	3374	+315
Indianapolis_AP	78	45	63	+0	0.90	3		22.99	+0.91	60	3710	+531
Indianapolis_SE	76	39	61	-3	1.03	2		27.72	+5.18	57	3370	+197
Tipton_Ag	77	40	59	-2	0.94	3	69	22.75	+0.34	63	3097	+333
East Central (6)												
Farmland	77	38	59	-2	1.21	2	60	20.68	-1.12	63	3190	+491
New_Castle	75	42	59	-2	1.23	2		23.85	+0.77	56	2909	+143
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	82	45	66	+0	2.06	1		24.59	+2.30	49	4163	+479
Freelandville	79	46	63	-2	1.23	1		28.11	+4.90	52	3781	+468
Shoals	81	44	63	-2	1.81	2		26.45	+1.40	51	3658	+444
Stendal	80	47	64	+0	1.98	1		28.34	+3.40	51	3954	+481
Vincennes_5NE	80	45	63	-2	1.25	1	65	32.30	+9.09	62	3871	+558
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	77	45	62	-2	4.90	3		28.25	+2.95	55	3746	+555
Oolitic	78	43	62	-1	1.58	1	66	28.63	+4.68	62	3570	+501
Tell_City	81	46	64	-2	4.62	2		27.83	+2.30	45	4255	+694
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	79	43	62	+0	3.25	2		24.65	+1.42	57	3647	+733
Milan_5NE	74	43	61	+0	2.90	3		31.60	+8.37	68	3271	+357
Scottsburg	77	41	62	-3	5.05	2		29.73	+5.84	59	3574	+273

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Preharvest Assessment of Indiana Corn Crop (Continued)

were only about 3 inches long. Finding *Aspergillus* ear rot in this area is no surprise, because the sandy soils increase the potential for drought stress, one factor making the plants more susceptible to the disease. In fields starting north of Princeton, going east of Princeton, south to Poseyville and to just north of Mt.Vernon, I was not able to find any evidence of *Aspergillus flavus* infections or evidence of higher than normal ear/kernel rot.

A second road trip began in Carroll County north of Delphi, passing to the south of Logansport and Peru, north of Marion, across northern Blackford County, up into Bluffton in Wells County, and then back to West Lafayette along Highway 26 from Portland. The corn was still green along this route and much farther from maturity than that in southern Indiana. We did not detect much ear/kernel rot. Many fields in Wells, Adams, and Jay Counties had extremely stunted plants. To my surprise, we could not find any evidence of *Aspergillus flavus*.

My current assessment of the Indiana corn crop is that yields will be down because of small ears and poor pollination, but I do not anticipate widespread ear rot and mycotoxin problems. I would advise grain producers and scouts to survey their fields for ear rots, especially those fields planted in light to sandy soils. If the weather continues to be dry, the corn will mature and dry down, halting any increase in ear rot damage. However, if the weather turns to a period of extensive rain, we could see an increase in ear rots and possibly mycotoxin contamination. My advice would be to harvest the corn crop as soon as possible and dry it to safe moisture for storage. Over the next month, we will be conducting our annual survey in collaboration with Indiana Agricultural Statistics. The data from this survey should tell us more about the ear rot and mycotoxin situation in Indiana.

Charles Woloshuk, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue University.

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